resigned or submitted their resignations; if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(b) whether the resignation of the Managing Director of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals has since been accepted ; if not, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The resignation submitted by Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and Managing Director, Bhopal Immunity Limited have been accepted and they have already been relieved.

The resignation submitted by the Managing Director, Smith Stanistreet and Pharmaceuticals Limited as well as making suitable alternative arrangements are being processed.

Import of Caprolactam

156. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have curtailed/restricted the imports of caprolactam, a basic raw mat rial required by the nylon industry for producing nylon yarn and tyre cord, despite the fact that the indigenous supply is insufficient to meet the requirements; if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether Government have made any assesment to know how far the restriction imposed is likely to affect the production planning of the nylon Industry beside its growth; and

(c) whether Government would reconsidered its decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) As per Import and Export Policy 1985-88 the import of caprolactam is allowed under the limited permissible category. The quantities permitted to be imported are determined taking into account the avalability from indigenous sources.

Demands for telephone connections

157. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment of the demands for telephones in the country by the end of this century has been made by Government;

(b) whether any special programme has since been chalked out by Government to meet the same ; and

(c) if so, the number of new telephone exchanges likely to be opened by 2000 AD in the country and how much of funds have been allocated in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Estimated demand of telephones in the countrv by the end of this century is 300 lakh connections.

(b) No, Sir. Financial constraints are adversely affecting the development of the Telecommunications sector.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to indicate the number of new exchanges expected to be commissioned by 2000 A.D. in the country. An allocation of Rs. 4010 crores for the 7th Plan only has been made.